

# BILL GATES

CSU33012 Software Engineering

**Assignment: To produce a short (2-4 page) biography of a key software engineer, discussing the work and impact of the individual.**

## INTRODUCTION

Bill Gates is a software engineer, business magnate, investor, philanthropist. He is also the co-founder of Microsoft. During his career at Microsoft, he held the positions of chairman, chief executive officer, president and chief software architect. He is the best known entrepreneur of the microcomputer revolution of the 1970s and 1980s. This biography will focus on his journey and contributions in the tech world.

## EARLY LIFE

Bill Gates grew up in Seattle, Washington. At 13, he enrolled in the private Lakeside prep school, where he wrote his first software program on a General Electric computer. The program is an implementation of tic-tac-toe that allowed users to play games against the computer. He was fascinated by the machine and how it would always execute software code perfectly. Later he and his other three classmates formed the Lakeside Programmers Club to make money. At 17, he formed a venture with his friend Allen called Traf-O-Date to make traffic counters based on Intel 8008 processor. In 1973, He scored 1590 out of 1600 on SAT and enrolled at Harvard College. In 1975, the MITS Altair 8800 was released based on the Intel 8080 CPU, and Gates and Allen saw the opportunity to start their own computer software company. Gates dropped out of Harvard that same year. He explained his decision to leave Harvard: "If things hadn't worked out, I could always go back to school. I was officially on leave."

# MICROSOFT

Gates and Allen co-founded Microsoft in 1975. During Microsoft's early years, although his primary role in most of the company's history was a manager and executive, Gates was an active software developer, particularly in Microsoft's programming language products. He wrote code that shipped with company's products as late as 1989.

Of course, he had primary responsibility for Microsoft's product strategy from the company's founding from 1975 until 2006. He gained a reputation for being distant from others; an industry executive once complained that Gates was notorious for not being reachable by phone and for not returning phone calls. He was also a competitive person. An Atari executive recalled that he showed Gates a game and defeated him 35 of 37 times, a month later they met again and Gates won or tied every game. He had studied the game until he solved it. He was really a competitor.

# WINDOWS

On November 20, 1985, in an attempt to fend off competition from Apple's Macintosh GUI, Microsoft and Gates launched their first retail version of an operating environment called Windows. Microsoft Windows came to dominate the world's personal computer market with over 90% market share, overtaking Mac OS.

Windows 95 was released on August 24, 1995, which was a major commercial success for Microsoft. By the time Windows 95 was finally ushered off the market in 2001, it had become a fixture on computer desktops around the world.

Windows 98 was released on June 25, 1998, which introduced support for USB composite devices, and support for multi-monitor configurations.

Windows XP was released on October 25, 2001, which introduced a redesigned user interface, streamlined multimedia and networking features.

Windows 7 was released on July 22, 2009, which was intended to be a more focused, incremental upgrade to the Windows line. It has a redesigned Windows shell with an updated

taskbar with revealable jump lists that contain shortcuts to files frequently used with specific applications and shortcuts to tasks within the application, and performance improvements.

Windows 10 was released on July 29, 2015, whose changes on PC include the return of the Start Menu, a virtual desktop system, and the ability to run Windows Store apps within windows on the desktop rather than in full-screen mode.

## MY COMMENTS

People usually regard Bill Gates only as the founder of Microsoft, a CEO or a manager. But before he became an entrepreneur, he was also a Computer Science student, he was also a software engineer who wrote codes, debugged and wrote design docs. Even after he founded Microsoft, he still spent some years writing codes. So it would be nice for Computer Science students know that even the biggest boss in the tech industry was once doing what we are doing.

I am interested in becoming an entrepreneur in the future as well, even though I am currently a normal college student at Trinity. Bill Gates's story inspires me, and he has a lot that I could learn from. He is definitely a special software engineer.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill\\_Gates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_Gates)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft\\_Windows](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft_Windows)